

THE BEST BULLETIN



Edition No. 2

August, 2006

BELIZE ENTERPRISE FOR -1- SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY (BEST)

The Principal Recipient's Update

Greetings From BEST!!

Since the last report for August 2006, we have made significant strides in implementing the project, dubbed the "Strengthening of Belize's Multi- Sectoral Response to HIV/AIDS."

Firstly, we were advised that Belize's request for financing for the second phase of the Project Grant has been approved by the Global Fund. This means that we have secured the financing of project activities for the next three years from October 2006- October, 2009.

Secondly, we have been in communication with the U.S. Department, on clarifying the offer of Technical Assistance to the PR and the Sub- Recipients working on the Global Fund Project. The TA will most likely be implemented between September 25th, 2006 and January 2007.

As we look forward to Phase Two, we want to call for renewed commitment from all seven sub- recipients. As together we move forward, we must bear in mind the need for us to synergize as we employ our creative wills to achieve the objectives of this project in a more timely and efficient manner.

In closing, we want to congratulate all the persons and organizations that have contributed to the ongoing national effort to stem the negative impacts of HIV/AIDS on Belize. The effort over the last two quarters has been gallant. Let us maintain this momentum for the duration of this project.

BEST EXTENDS CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOP FOUR AGENCIES:

*** Belize Family Life Association

*** Ministry Of Education (QADS)

** Ministry Of Health

* Alliance Against Aids

BELIZE FAMILY LIFE ASSOCIATION -2- (BFLA)

Representative : Joan Burke

"Kudos" for major activities implemented.

Ifasina Efunyema was the facilitator for the Sexual & Reproductive Health Workshop that convened at the Barranco Village Community Centre on Friday, July 21st, 2006. A total of twenty two young people were in attendance.

The topics addressed included Self Esteem, Gender Issues, Sex & Sexuality, STIs 101 and HIV 101. It should be of interest to the Ministry of Health that after the facilitator consulted with approximately fourteen parents, the following Sexual and Health needs were identified in that vicinity:- Gynecological Examination, STI testing and treatment, The promotion of and actual HIV Testing and Information and Out reach sessions.

- During the month of August, BFLA issued 2,304 condoms to their centres country wide. In addition, a three month stock of 9,792 condoms were sent to the Dangriga Aids Society for redistribution.
 - A total of six hundred posters were printed during the month of August '06 .These were geared towards CSWs, promoting monogamy and addressing the issue of condom use. Agencies have been identified to assist in redistribution of these posters.
 - BFLA hosted a Sporting, Educational Activity (incorporating HIV/AIDS Education) on 8th & 9th August '06 at the Burrell Boom Community Centre. The facilitators of this event were D Rhamdas and Ana Reyes (BFLA). This was done in collaboration with the Burrell Boom Community Nurse's Aid (CAN) and catered to approximately seventy young people.
 - The following topics were highlighted: Pre and post test knowledge, Prevention & Transmission of HIV/AIDS, Stigmatization & Discrimination. Issues that are of particular concern to the youth in this context will be noted along with recommendations made which will be utilized in further enhancing BFLAs programme.
- During the month of August, HIV/Aids advertisements were produced and contracts were signed with KREM, Wave, Love FM and Reef Radio. The advertisements were produced in English, Spanish, Ketchi and Garifuna .

UPCOMING EVENTS

Plans are being made to conduct the (BCC) Strategy Training during the month of October 2006. This endeavour will be coordinated by BFLA, QADS, PAHO and BEST.

A post is being advertised for that of a consultant who will conduct the Base line Study (CSWs). This activity should be carried out during the month of September 2006.

A Peer Education Management Training is scheduled for the October 2006.



Youth at Burrell Boom's Sporting Event



Youth participate in workshop in Barranco



Ifasina facilitating in Barranco

Youth participate in workshop in Burrell Boom.



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (MOE) -4-

Representative : Sherlene Tablada

"kudos" for Major Activities Implemented

From the period 17th- 21st July 2006, a total of fifty (50) teachers who had previously participated in the pilot phase for the Health & Family Life Education (HFLE), along with health workers and officers, were trained to conduct the Training of Trainers Work Shop during the Continuous Professional Sessions in August 2006.

Two of the five day trainings were dedicated to imparting knowledge about HIV/AIDS.

A week of Peer Education Training took place in Dangriga at the Red Cross Facilities. Shereen Valera and Cashera Swift facilitated the sessions that catered to a total of sixty (60) participants.

During the period of July 31st to August 11th, 2006, there was Continuous Professional Development Training for Teachers in all six districts, a total of one thousand (1000) teachers participated. HFLE and HIV/AIDS sessions were incorporated in this programme of events.

On the 7th August 2006, the HFLE Curriculum was launched.

From August 7th-9th, 2006, a total of thirty (30) Anglican Primary School teachers were trained in HIV/AIDS prevention education. Over the period August 10th – 11th, twenty-five (25) Anglican Secondary School Teachers were trained in HIV/AIDS prevention education. The trainings were done in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, The Anglican Diocese and the Alliance Against Aids.

INCORPORATING HIV/AIDS Information Into Teacher Training Programme



UPCOMING EVENTS

The monitoring of teachers who were trained in August 2006. The completion of the Peer Education Manual by the end of September 2006.

The development of the Communication materials (two posters), scheduled to be completed in October 2006. Liaising with BEST, BOLA, PAHO with respect to the BCC Training scheduled for October 2006. Liaising with BEST, BFLA and the Regional Red Cross concerning the Peer education Management Training scheduled for October 2006.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH) -5-

Representatives : Dr. Paul Edwards and Dr. Moguel

"kudos" for activities implemented May – June '06

"The Global Fund Committee" was formed. The objective of this group is to expedite the planning and implementation of the activities to the MOH. One of the major accomplishments for the period spanning this period was the STI Training Sessions as highlighted below:

A total of thirty Health workers were trained at STI Work Shop convened in Orange Walk and Corozal on the 27th July, 2006. On the 16th August, 2006, the STI Work Shop was held at San Ignacio Hospital. At this session there were nineteen (19) professionals in attendance. On the 23rd August, 2006 a total of thirty three (33) Health workers were trained in Dangriga. The date of the STI workshop for Punta Gorda was changed from 30th August to September 1st, 2006

The STI sessions were facilitated by Dr. Moguel and Nurse Williams and Mr. Carr of the STI Comprehensive Clinic.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A draft condom distribution Plan is now available and is slated to be finalized during the 1st week of September '06.

NEWS!!!

The MOH is to receive two vehicles through the Global Fund Project, for contact tracing. These vehicles are already in country.

UPDATE

The Northern Regional Hospital's VCT Clinic.

The VCT Centre which is integrated into the Northern Regional Hospital opened its doors to the public in April 2006. The staff consists of the Head Psychiatric Nurse, Nurse Tillet along with two other Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners namely, Nurses Sinclair and Ortega. The other staff member is Ms. Angelita Sanchez who is the coordinator of HECOPAB.

The VCT Centre houses a laboratory and so HIV/AIDS testing is done in addition to pre and post testing. Presently they attend to approximately five patients on a daily but efforts are being to significantly increase the clients in the following manner:

To ensure that all patients of the Maternal Child Health Clinic are screened for HIV/AIDS.

The bolstering of the Health Education and Outreach Programme when Nurse Lorna Perez joins the staff.

An HIV/AIDS Committee has been formed and together with Corner Stone Foundation and the HECOPAB coordinator they ensure that HIV/AIDS patients get supplies on a monthly basis in the form of clothing, food supplies and books.



**VCT Centre
Northern
Regional
Hospital**



**Patiently
awaiting
attention**



**Mr. Carr
Facilitating
the
STI TRAINING
IN COROZAL**



ALLIANCE AGAINST AIDS (AAA)

Representative : Rodel Perrera

“kudos” for Major Activities Implemented

The major thrust for AAA during this period was the Education Session for volunteers and field workers held on the 16th and 17th August 2006. This took the form of a Policy Analysis Workshop that catered to a total of nineteen participants. The participants consisted of volunteers from AAA and peer educators from the ILO work place programme.

The facilitator was Adele Catzim who provided information on relevant National and International policies relevant to HIV/AIDS.

Advertisements highlighting the fact that persons “Don’t have to face HIV/AIDS alone” were aired as follows: The Amandala Newspaper, Channel 7 and FM 2000. These will run on specified schedules until the end of September 2006.

NEWS!!!

The AAA is to receive a vehicle through the Global Fund Project, for continued work in outreach and support services. The vehicle is already in the country.

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**MINISTRY OF HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT (MHD)**

Representatives : Icilda Humes

“kudos” for major activities implemented

- One of the major undertakings for the Women’s Department was that of raising “Public awareness” and sensitizing the public in relation to the link between domestic Violence and HIV/AIDS. This was done through an awareness campaign utilizing the radio, TV and also via posters. A two day work shop was held on the 24th & 25th August ’06 at the Red Cross facilities in Dangriga. The facilitators were Michelle Irving (Women’s Dpt.) and Anna Reyes of (BFLA).

At the work shop issues relating to Sexual & Reproductive Health were imparted in such a manner that captured the attention of a young audience consisting of thirty three participants.

On Day 1 of the work shop, the theme of Sexual & Reproductive Health was discussed in the context of Reproductive Organs and Care & Hygiene.

On the second day of the workshop the topics covered were Sex & HIV, Mother to Child Transmission, and embracing one’s Sexuality.

UPCOMING EVENTS



It is anticipated that by the month of October 2006, the Women’s Department would have implemented a skills Training in an entrepreneurship programme for women.

**SEXUAL REPRODUCTION AND
HEALTH WORKSHOP**



**YOUTH
PARTICIPATE IN
DANGRIGA**



NATIONAL AIDS COMMISSION -9-
(NAC)

Representatives: Ambassador Dolores Balderamos Garcia & Ruth Jaramillo

"Kudos" for major activities implemented

The Policy & Legislation Sub- Committee has been formed. One of the objectives of the Committee was to strengthen the membership of the committee as reflected in the representation from the following sectors:

Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Alliance Against Aids, National Committee for Families and Children, ILO/USDOL Workplace Education Project, PLWHA, National Trade Union Congress, Belize Defence Force, Office of the Ombudsman, Legal Representative, Policy Advocate and Belize Centre for Human Rights Studies Representative.

The Terms of reference for this committee has been put in place. Highlighted below are some of the key aspects of the TOR.

- ⇒ Ensure the development of the legal framework and advocate for enactment of legislation in support to the National Policy and the Workplace Policy.
- ⇒ Work towards harmonization of relevant Policies on HIV/AIDS with the overall National Policy.
- ⇒ Ensure that the implementation of the Policy and related programmes are in alignment with the National Strategic Plan.



On the 29th August, 2006 the National HIV/AIDS Policy and National Strategic Plan 2006-2011 was launched. There was also a press briefing on the Current Status of HIV/AIDS

Epidemic.

**The National HIV/AIDS Policy and Strategic Plan
(2006-2011) Launch**



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